

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SAL-01 ACDA-07

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /133 W

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R 281751Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0759

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BREMEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: GERMAN PREPARATIONS FOR FOURTH LOS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: THE SPRING LOS CONFERENCE FINALLY
AWAKENED FRG INTEREST IN LOS BY CONVINCING MANY, IN
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AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, THAT DECISIONS AFFECTING

IMPORTANT GERMAN INTERESTS MAY WELL BE MADE THIS YEAR. IN AN ELECTION YEAR, THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION HAS TRIED TO MAKE SOME CAPITAL ON ISSUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH LACK OF INTEREST AND CONCERN, HAS FAILED TO PROTECT GERMAN INTERESTS. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER HAS RESPONDED TO THESE CHARGES IN SEVERAL SPEECHES ON LOS AS WELL AS DURING A MAJOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE HELD ON LOS IN LATE JUNE. THESE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES MAY PLACE GREATER CONSTRAINTS ON GERMAN NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY TO NEXT LOS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. TOWARDS THE CLOSE OF THIRD LOS CONFERENCE, THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION BEGAN TO MOUNT AN ATTACK AGAINST THE FRG GOVERNMENT FOR NOT DEFENDING GERMAN INTERESTS IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE REQUEST OF THE CDU/CSU, A MAJOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE WAS HELD ON JUNE 23. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER PARTICIPATED AS THE PRIMARY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE SPOKESMAN. HE LISTED THE FOLLOWING AS THE MOST IMPORTANT GERMAN INTERESTS IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS:

(1) FREE, LEGALLY-PROTECTED, NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO DEEP SEABED RAW MATERIALS;

(2) UNHINDERED OCEAN NAVIGATION;

(3) ASSURANCE OF ACCESS TO PROTEIN SUPPLIES FROM THE SEAS. THE SAFEGUARDING AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRG MARINE KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY.

(4) INTERNATIONAL REGULATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INSURING THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR MISUSE ARE EXCLUDED;

(5) ACTIVE UTILIZATION OF FRG MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

3. GENSCHER ARGUED THAT A REVISION OF PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA IS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THESE GERMAN INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE UNILATERAL ADOPTION OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONES

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BY COASTAL STATES, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION FOUGHT
HARD FOR GERMAN INTERESTS IN THE LAST LOS CONFERENCE,
AND THAT THE FRG HAS STRIVED TO DEVELOP A COMMON
POSITION FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ALL EC MEMBERS.
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SUBSEQUENTLY, IN A JULY 19 MEETING IN BREMEN WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR COASTAL PROVINCES, GENSCHER REVIEWED GERMAN INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES. HE STRESSED IN PARTICULAR GERMAN INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT EXPLOITATION OF DEEP SEABED RESOURCES IS PROTECTED BY LAW AND THAT ACCESS IS NOT IMPAIRED BY DIRIGISTIC MEASURES. HE ALSO REFERRED TO FRG EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT OF THE NINE TO A COMMON 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE FOR THE COMMUNITY. EC AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE CLOSE AT HAND.

4. COMMENT: PUBLIC DEBATE ON LOS HAS QUIETED DOWN, BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN THE 4TH SESSION WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES SEARCHING FOR ISSUES BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 3. FRG DELEGATION IN NEW YORK WILL BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE CONCERNING ISSUES WHICH TOUCH ON THE FIVE GERMAN INTERESTS LISTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

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